mained confined to the upper-class society in the cities;

(c) whether Government have any plan to make cooking gas available to the common people; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the gas filling capacity to cater to the needs of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Even though LPG availability in the country has increased substantially in recent years, self-sufficiency is not likely to be attained in the near future, as the demand for LPG continues to grow at a much higher rate than its sup-Ply;

(b) and (c) LPG is available to all who are already its consumers and in a phased manner to those who have registered for it. Based on the present policy the oil industry has taken action to market LPG in a phased manner in towns having population of 20, 000 and above and which offer potential f. or viable dis. tributoi'ships;

(d) Yes, Sir.

Shortage in Hydel Generation

*34. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI; Wilt the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortfall in hydel power genera-
' tion due to reduction in water level in most of the major reservoirs in the country because of bad monsoon this year;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to make good for this shortfall; and

(c) whether adequate power supply has been ensured for agriculture in the drought affected States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The steps which are being taken to increase the availability of power include maximising thermal genera tion, measures to reduce transmit, sion and distribution losses and implementation of demand manage ment and energy conservation mea sures.

(c) By and large the power re quirement of the agricultural sector is being met fully.

Decision on Punjab Agro Pepsi proposal

*35. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3440 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th August, 1987 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on Punjab Agro Pepsi proposal; and

(b) if so, what rae the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI VENGAL RAO'; (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Power Crisis in Delhi

*36. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR..

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been enormous power crisis in and around Delhi during the last 6

months despite the assurances by DESU;

(b) if so, what are the main factors responsible for such power crisis; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the power supply in Delhi and its nearby areas during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) There has been no power crisis in Delhi, 'A shortage of power has been experienced as the demand in the States of the Northern Region has increased due to drought conditions and the requirement of the agricultural sector has to be met on a priority basis.

(c) The demand for power is proposed to be met next year from DESU's own generation which is being augmented, increase, \ supply from the Badarpur Thermal Power Station, and DESU's share in the new capacity to be added in the Central sector in the Northern Region. Assistance to the extent possible would also be provided to DESU from the Northern Grid.

Setting up of National Power Grid

*37. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) what steps have been taken by Government to set up another oil-refinery in the Public Sector in Assam; and

(b) by when Government propose to complete the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and b) During the negotiations leading to the Assam Accord, Government of Ind: a had agreed, *inter-alia* "to establish an oil refinery in Assam. Government will render all possible assistance in | terms of institutional and bank finance to facilitate the establish, ment of a refinery in the private sector. "

Government of Assam have however requested that this refinery should be set up in the public sector. The proposal to set up the refinery in the public sector is under the consideration of Government. The Project will take five years to be completed from the date of Anal approval by the Government of India.

. Recession in Engineering Industry

*38. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: SHRI K. MOHANAN.

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the Engineering Industry is undergoing demand constraints, adversely affecting its growth rate;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a recession; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) According tothe Index of Industrial Production, the Engineer, ing Industry registered a rate of growth of 13. 2 per cent in 1986-87. During April-May 1987, it registered further growth rate of 12. 4 per cent as against 5. 1 per cent during the corresponding period of 1986.

In view of this, it will not be correct to say that the Engineering Industry as a whole is facing demand recession.